architect. In conclusion, I cannot but observe that there is a very great carelessness and indifference manifest in want of attention to some most essential points in constructing prisons; and I trust that these few notes may prove advantageous.

Dublin. J. J. L.

ROYAL INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS.

ARCHITECTS' PROPOSED BENEVOLENT FUND.

On the 12th ultimo, a general meeting of the Institute was held, to receive a report from the Committee appointed to inquire into the above matter.

It appears that the objects of the charter do not comprise the establishment of a benevolent fund, and the solicitor thinks that the Institute have not legally the power of establishing and administering such a fund. The committee, therefore, had confined themselves to the consideration of the proposed distribution of the fund through the medium of the Artists' General Benevolent Institution. From a letter addressed by the memorialists to the Council of the Institute, it appeared that such proposed arrangement was by no means satisfactory to the general body of the memorialists,—the committee therefore suggested, "that a communication be made by the council to the memorialists, to the effect that it regrets the insuperable difficulties arising from the terms of their charter, which prevent the Institute from undertaking the formation and distribution of the proposed benevolent fund, but offering, at the same time, to afford such support and encouragement for the establishment and maintenance of such a fund as the constitution of their charter will admit, and as the council of the Institute may from time to time consider expedient."

The report was received and adopted, so that the memorialists are just where they were at starting; and the profession, irrespective of the Institute, must take the matter into their own hands if they wish the fund established.

On Monday, the 19th ult., Mr. Sydney Smirke in the chair, Mr. James Fergusson (author of "An Inquiry into the Principle of Beauty in Art") and Mr. H. Oliver were elected associates.

Specimens of moulded bricks from the estate of the Earl of Leicester, Holkham-park, were exhibited, including labels, copings, mullions, paving tiles, chimneys, &c. made of an excellent material. The price of a handsome Tudor chimney-top, 8 feet high, thus formed, was stated to be 4*l.* 10*s.*

Whinstone.—Mr. Burn said he wished, before proceeding to the business of the evening, to withdraw an observation he had made on a recent occasion, to the effect that Whinstone was a very absorbent material. He had been misled by adopting a general opinion. Experiment, to which he had been led by what was then said, had shewn him that Whinstone was but very slightly absorbent, and he wished to set himself right.

Mr. Charles Barry, Jun., then gave an account of a mode of constructing malleable iron fire-proof flooring, recently patented by Mr. Beardmore, the substance of which we give elsewhere. A variety of objections to the invention raised by members were ably replied to by Mr. Barry; and Mr. Donaldson, in moving, and Mr. Poynter, in seconding, a vote of thanks, congratulated the profession on the *début* of the son of their esteemed colleague.

Mr. T. H. Wyatt made some remarks upon the church of St. Andrew, at Greensted, in Essex, mainly in reply to published assertions that the ancient church had been demolished. We shall give a view of the church as restored, and append to it some few of Mr. Wyatt's notes.

EXHIBITION OF THE SCOTTISH ACADEMY.—The present exhibition in Edinburgh is well spoken of, and attracts large numbers of persons. A taste for the fine arts is certainly increasing amongst the Scotch generally. Amongst the principal works are enumerated pictures by the late Sir D. Wilkie, the late W. Collins, and the late W. Simson; Roberts, Sir W. Allan, Macculloch, Noel Paton, and Watson Gordon.

THE LATE MR. HARVEY EGINTON.

MR. HARVEY EGINTON was the son of Mr. Raphael Eginton, a glass painter of some note, under whom he commenced his architectural career. His chief opportunity for acquiring a knowledge of architecture was limited to the resources afforded by studying in the cathedral of the city (Worcester) in which he resided; but this, with the information his father was able to render him, soon qualified him (being of a very persevering disposition) to assume the profession in which he afterwards made rapid progress. Having executed a few works of minor importance, he obtained the countenance of Mr. H. G. G. Ludlow, a magistrate of the county of Wilts, under whom he executed a work of magnitude, and whose friendship he retained up to the time of his decease, having lately completed a church built and endowed by that gentleman. Soon after this he was appointed (through the recommendation of Mr. Britton) architect for carrying out the restoration of the parish church of Stratford-on-Avon. About this time, too, he was engaged in the restoration of St. Lawrence Church, Evesham. One of his last and best works was the restoration of the parish church of Kidderminster. At the time of his decease he held three public appointments, that of county surveyor, architect to the Incorporated Society for Building Churches and Chapels for the Worcester District, and Architect to the Worcester Diocesan Church Building Society. The following are the principal edifices upon which he was engaged. The erection of Broseley Church, Shropshire; Dawley Church, Shropshire; St. Luke's Church, Birmingham; St. Michael's, Worcester; Westbury Church, Wilts; Malvern Link Church; Headley Cross Church; Trimpley Church; North Hill Church, Malvern; St. Paul's Church, Worcester. The restoration of Paulers Pury Church, Northamptonshire; Bredon Church, Worcestershire; Pershore Abbey Church; Walton Church, Warwickshire; Clifton-on-Seine Church, Worcestershire; Stoke Prior Church; Honeybourn Church; Powick Church; Grimley Church. The erection of Tenbury Vicarage; twelve police stations; a mansion at Malvern; a mansion at Yelverton; Martley schools; Spetchley schools; St. Nicholas schools, Worcester; Westbury schools; steward's house, Spetchley; glebe houses, Malvern; extension of Worcester County Prison; restoration of Sudeley Castle and of Astley Hall. Mr. Eginton died on Ash Wednesday, at the early age of 40.

THE "BURIAL OF HAROLD."

A CURIOUS CASE.

SIR,—On the north side of Leicester-square, beneath the entrance to the premises known as Miss Linwood's Gallery, and subsequently as the Walhalla, you descend a few steps, where, on a very unpretending entrance, is inscribed "Wine Shades." It consists of two spacious saloons, laid out for refreshments in the usual style. Within these few days, whispers and rumours have led many of the curious, the inquisitive, and the most eminent in art, to make a visit to this subterranean abode of the juicy divinity; and it must be openly avowed that a problem is here elicited which must be satisfactorily solved, or the integrity and reputation of an artist will be injured.

We all recollect that Mr. F. R. Pickersgill, A.R.A., painted a picture representing the "Burial of Harold," which was rewarded by a first-class premium, in the exhibition at Westminster Hall, in 1847. This picture was subsequently purchased by Government, at the recommendation of the Royal Commission for promoting the Fine Arts, to be placed in the New Palace at Westminster. What will be the astonishment created when it is stated that, in one of the saloons of this "Wine Shades," on the right-hand side in entering, there is hung a picture of this same composition, of small size, exactly the same in the arrangement of all the figures, with the single exception that one of them, in the middle distance, bears a shield. The straining-frame and canvas on which this phenomenon is painted bear the impress of at least half a century of manufacture, on examining the back. The execution of the picture is extremely wretched, and would at first glance impart the notion of being the production of a feeble hand copying a better work.

There can be no hesitation in asserting that the entire affair must be fully explained, and it behoves Mr. Pickersgill to take the initiative in the matter. If it prove to be, as we hope, a rascally daub got up upon an old canvas to ruin the character of a talented artist, no reprobation would be too strong for the transaction. As there is no restraining the extensive circulation of verbal calumny until the public ear becomes thoroughly poisoned, it is better that the circumstance should be investigated without delay. One of the attendants in the room where the picture is hung said, 100*l.* had been offered for the picture since its new-born notoriety. If true, by whom?

M.

*** We have not inserted this without consideration and inquiry. We gave Mr. Pickersgill intimation of this picture, and his reply is, that he "has never seen the picture in question, nor is he aware of the existence of *any work* resembling the 'Harold,' either in subject or arrangement." The identity is unquestionable, and the paint has a settled and old look, which does not appear, under the recent coat of varnish, to be deception. The possession of the picture has been traced for five years.

BALLOON RAILWAY.

A MECHANICIAN in Great Portland-street has been taxing his invention, with the view of forwarding the quiet design of the Yankee Government to attract all sorts of 'lads of metal' to the great, but probably still more greatly exaggerated, Californian magnet, where they press and rub against each other much more like files than filings, loose particles though they be, much more than integral and useful members of those communities whence they are attracted. For the facilitation of this useful process, it is proposed to supersede the mission of the iron horse altogether, even while following his railway track, or laying it down rather, right across the continent of America, up hill and down dale, and clear of all tunnelling, even through the Rocky Mountains. And the grand succedaneum to 'hell in harness' is the locomotive influence of that 'power of the air,' a fair wind, operative on an aerial, or really winged Pegasus, in the form of a manageable balloon—that hitherto impracticable phenomenon, which it is now proposed to accomplish by help of a straight line of wooden rail with a saddle of iron (though without the horse), and with wheels to run underneath the saddle in place of on the rail, and to guide the flighty Pegasus and its gold hunting riders, with a fair wind direct, from Washington to the gold-washing fields of California, at the goodly rate of 50 miles an hour. And even though the wind should not be quite fair, the running train is to act as a rudder, the rail as a keel, and the balloon, we presume, as a sail, so that the 'land lubber' may cut along even by a side wind. Should the wind turn right in its teeth, or the ship-shape machinery chance to be becalmed, the 'angelic train' might come down from above, "by means of ropes, in a car." But what they might then do, especially in the midst of a boundless horizon of prairie-ocean, or a rushing and irresistible buffalo-tide, is prudently left to the pre-occupied fancies of the gold-hunting emigrants themselves.—The same really ingenious patentee has invented a wheel-rigged ship, or a whirligig-ship, we are not sure which, wherein the lame, the halt, and the blind, not likely to run away on arrival, may be made to work their way out of the old world into the new, *viâ* California, *and back again*,—the latter a difficulty which, though only now somewhat singularly realised, at one time, by anticipation, very much pre-occupied the minds of unbelievers in the transatlantic land-seeking mission of that Noah's Dove, Columbus, ere he took wing on the ocean waste in search of the golden land.

SHEFFIELD WARE.—The proprietors of the *Sheffield Times* have offered a prize of 10*l.* for the best essay on the present condition and future prospects of the staple trades of Sheffield.

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